BAT MAN
THE LINE OF SUPER-STARS
DC
starring ROBIN AND THE RIDDLER!
30¢
NO. 279
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BAT MAN
DON'T WORRY, BATMAN-- I'VE NABBED THE RIDDLER!
ERNIE CHUA 1976

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BATMAN
WITH ROBIN THE TEEN WONDER
THIS'LL KILL YOU, BATMAN AND ROBIN!
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ME AND A LAWYER?
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR ANSWER IS, RIDDLER--
--BUT A LAWYER GOES BEFORE THE BARS OF JUSTICE--
--AND YOU'RE GOING BEHIND THEM!
WHO? THE RIDDLER--(EDWARD) NIGMA WRAPPED IN A PUZZLE INSIDE A MYSTERY!
WHAT? HE'S LOOSE AGAIN!
WHY? THE IRRESISTIBLE LURE OF CRIME!
WHERE? HERE--IN THE MOST MIND-BLOWING ANNAL OF HIS BIZARRE CAREER!
STORY BY: DAVID V. REED
ART BY: ERNIE CHUA and TEX BLAISDELL
EDITED BY JULIUS SCHWARTZ
RIDDLER ON THE RAMPAGE

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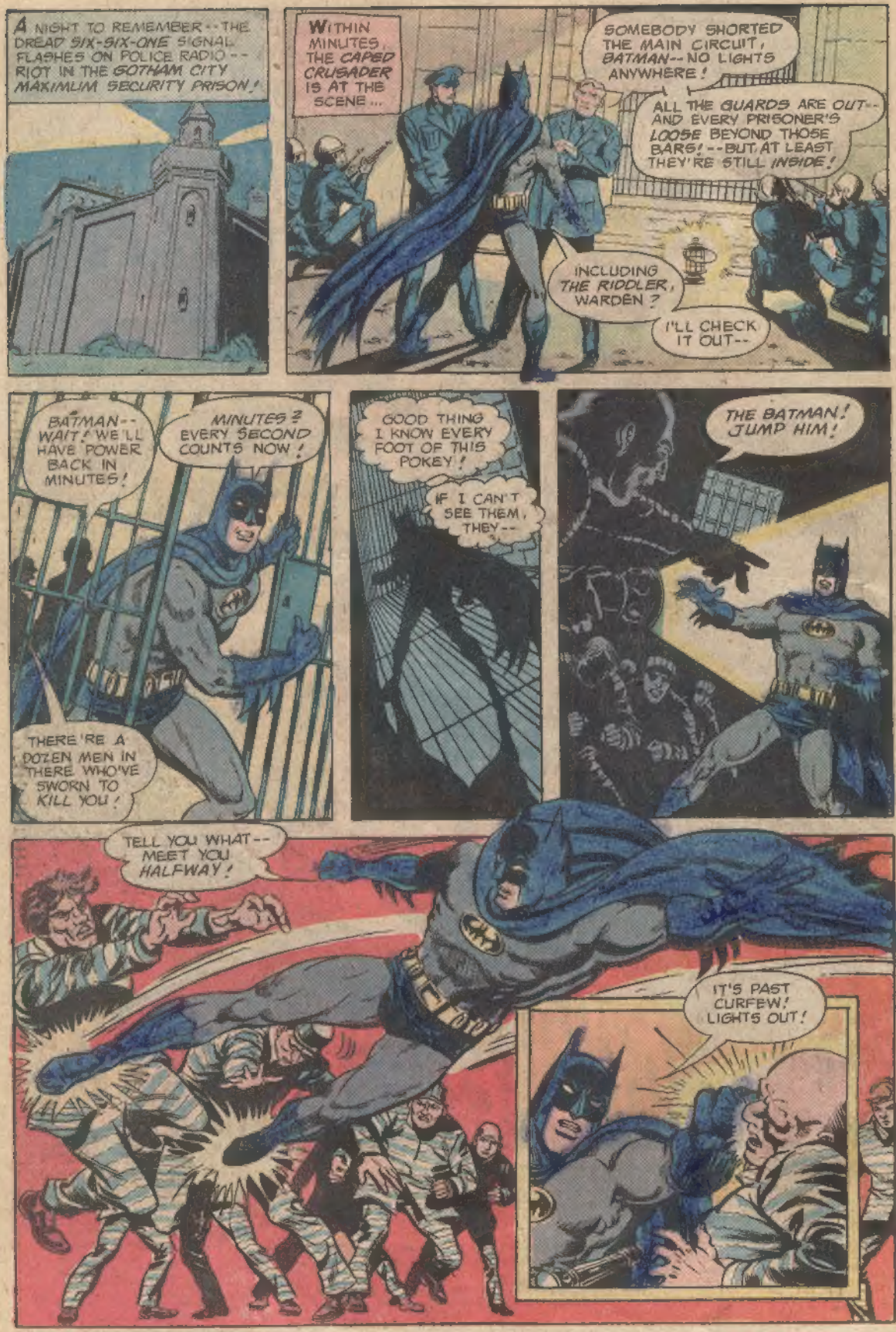
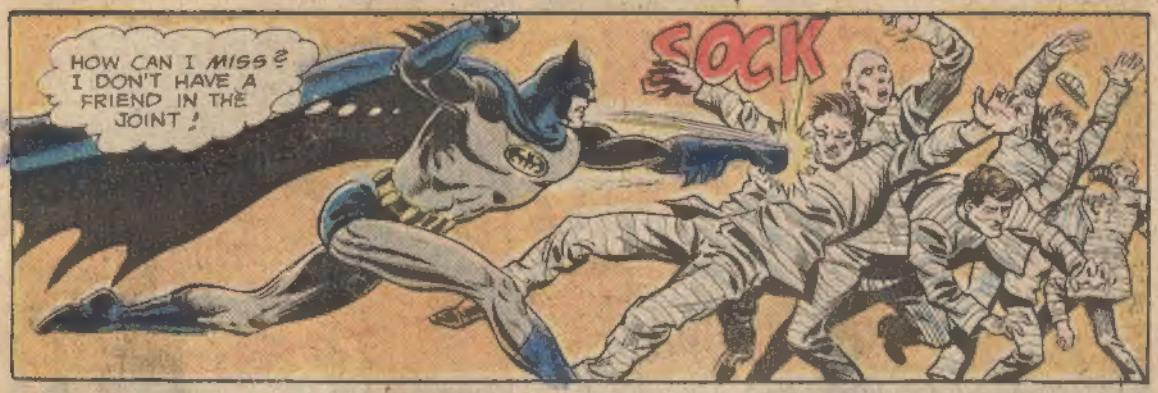
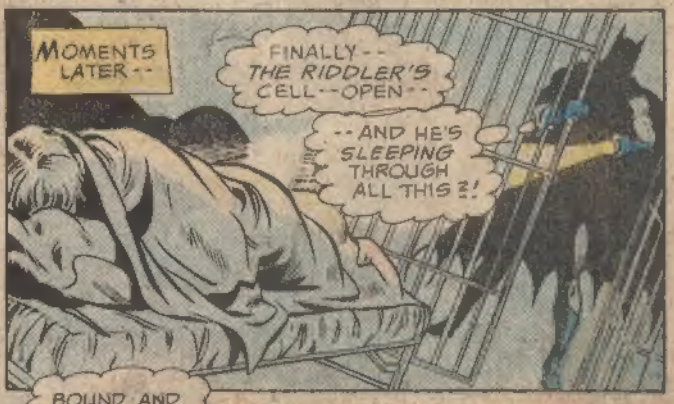
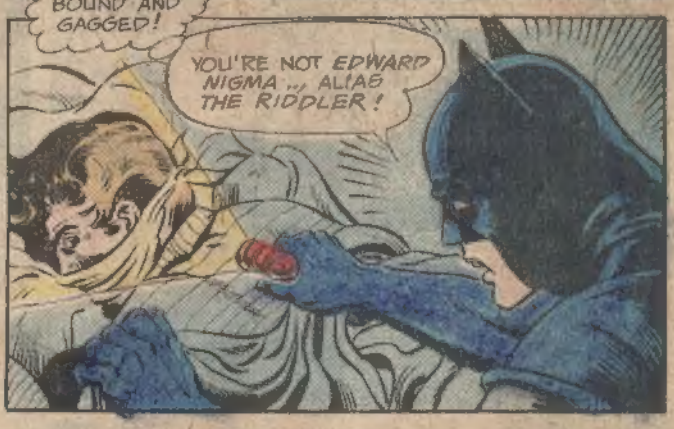
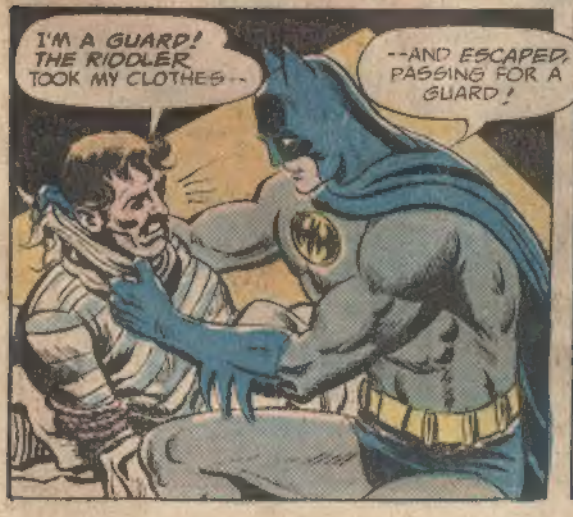

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER--THE DREAD SIX-SIX-ONE SIGNAL FLASHES ON POLICE RADIO--RIOT IN THE GOTHAM CITY MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON!
WITHIN MINUTES, THE CAPED CRUSADER IS AT THE SCENE...
SOMEBODY SHORTED THE MAIN CIRCUIT, BATMAN--NO LIGHTS ANYWHERE!
ALL THE GUARDS ARE OUT--AND EVERY PRISONER'S LOOSE BEYOND THOSE BARS!--BUT AT LEAST THEY'RE STILL INSIDE!
INCLUDING THE RIDDLER, WARDEN?
I'LL CHECK IT OUT--
BATMAN--WAIT! WE'LL HAVE POWER BACK IN MINUTES!
MINUTES? EVERY SECOND COUNTS NOW!
THERE'RE A DOZEN MEN IN THERE WHO'VE SWORN TO KILL YOU!
GOOD THING I KNOW EVERY FOOT OF THIS POKEY!
IF I CAN'T SEE THEM, THEY--
THE BATMAN! JUMP HIM!
TELL YOU WHAT--MEET YOU HALFWAY!
IT'S PAST CURFEW! LIGHTS OUT!


HOW CAN I MISS? I DON'T HAVE A FRIEND IN THE JOINT!
SOCK

POW BAM WHAM
FROM WHAT I HEAR AROUND ME--THEY REALLY DON'T NEED ME ANYMORE!


MOMENTS LATER--
FINALLY--THE RIDDLER'S CELL--OPEN--
--AND HE'S SLEEPING THROUGH ALL THIS?!


BOUND AND GAGGED!
YOU'RE NOT EDWARD NIGMA ,, ALIAS THE RIDDLER!


I'M A GUARD! THE RIDDLER TOOK MY CLOTHES--
--AND ESCAPED, PASSING FOR A GUARD!

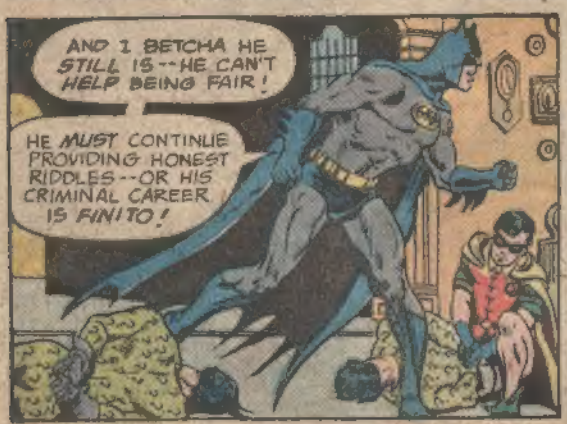
AT LEAST HE WAS OBLIGED TO LEAVE BEHIND A CRYPTIC MESSAGE!

MEANWHILE, IN HIS SECRET HIDE-OUT, THE INFAMOUS RIDDLER--PRINCE OF PUZZLES AND COMPULSIVE KING OF THE KOOKS BY TRADE--GLOATS ON CLOUD NINE!...
BY THIS TIME TOMORROW NIGHT, BATMAN, YOU'LL BE LOSING YOUR ALLEGED MIND!
THOUGH MY MENTAL BLOCK PREVENTS ME FROM COMMITTING A CRIME WITHOUT FIRST GIVING YOU A RIDDLE-CLUE, I'VE FINALLY LEARNED HOW TO HANDLE YOU!
I'M GOING TO FLOOD YOU WITH RIDDLES--RIDDLES-INSIDE-RIDDLES-INSIDE-RIDDLES--
--AT A PACE NO ONE--NOT EVEN YOU--CAN COPE WITH!
ALL BRILLIANTLY PLANNED AND TIMED--FROM THE START TO THE UTTERLY FUTILE FINISH!
LATE NEXT AFTERNOON--FROM THE UPSTATE CAMPUS OF HUDSON U., A SURPRISE VISITOR DROPS IN ON BRUCE WAYNE...
DICK GRAYSON...IN PUBLIC, BRUCE WAYNE'S WARD--IN PRIVATE, THE BATMAN'S YOUNG AIDE--ROBIN!
WELL, WELL--IF IT ISN'T THE MONSTER PUNSTER!
YOU MEAN THE CONSTANT FUNSTER!
WHAT BRINGS YOU TO TOWN?
A BIG DAY TOMORROW AT THE CENTRAL LIBRARY--DOING RESEARCH FOR TWO TOUGH COURSES!
THAT'S ALL?
YES... WHY?
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN TODAY'S PAPER?
JUST THE HEADLINES!
OHH...YOU MEAN THAT JAIL RIOT LAST NIGHT?
--AND JAIL BREAK! ONE PRISONER ESCAPED--GUESS WHO!
IF YOU WANT ME TO GUESS, IT MUST BE THE RIDDLER!
RIGHT!
HE USED TO DRIVE ME NUTS!
YES... WELL... TOO BAD...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN--TOO BAD?
CHANGING THE SUBJECT--YOU'VE GOT YOUR MIND ON COLLEGE...
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE KIDDING?
NO WAY YOU'LL KEEP ME OUT OF THIS, BATMAN!
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

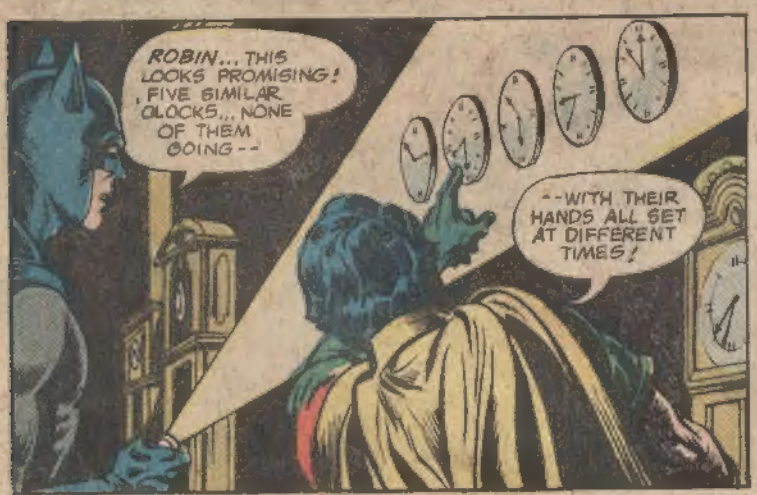
YOUR WORKING CLOTHES, MASTER DICK! I TRUST THEY STILL FIT!
YOU TAKING SIDES, ALFRED?
NOT A BIT, SIR! BUT SINCE I KNOW HOW THIS IS BOUND TO COME OUT, I'M SAVING EVERYONE'S TIME!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT... TIME IS ONE THING WE DON'T HAVE!
IN FACT, I EXPECT TO HEAR FROM THE RIDDLER AT ANY MOMENT!
FILL ME IN, BATMAN!
HE SNEAKED OUT IN A GUARD'S UNIFORM, LEAVING THE GUARD BOUND AND GAGGED WITH THIS--
YOU'LL HEAR FROM ME TOMORROW, BATMAN--WHEN ADAM WAS BORN!
WHEN ADAM WAS BORN?
I KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT!
IT'S "SHORTLY BEFORE EVE!"
--AND IT'S JUST ABOUT TWILIGHT NOW...
LOOK--THE MESSAGE IS FADING OUT...AND ANOTHER ONE'S APPEARING ON THE GAG!
TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE, BATMAN!--WHAT IS THE MOST MODEST OF ALL MECHANISMS?
THIS ONE IS A REAL ZINGER!
C'MON! LET'S GET GOING!
WHERE TO--?
--WHERE THE RIDDLER CLUED US IN TO GO!
BATMAN, I ALWAYS KNEW THE RIDDLER ENJOYED HIS MADCAP JOKES--BUT I NEVER THOUGHT HE WAS LITERALLY A GAG WRITER!
SPARE ME, ROBIN--SPARE ME!

AS NIGHT ENVELOPS THE CITY--
WELL, ROBIN? HAVE YOU CRACKED THE RIDDLE YET?
HOW ABOUT THIS--?
"TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE" MEANS CLOCKS--BECAUSE THE ESSENCE OF CLOCKS IS TIME!
CLOCKS IT IS--BUT THAT'S ONLY PART OF THE CLUE!
A CLOCK IS THE MOST MODEST OF ALL MECHANISMS--BECAUSE IT COVERS ITS FACE WITH ITS HANDS!
TERRIFIC! TWO CLUES FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!
NO, ROBIN--THREE CLUES--BECAUSE THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE!
THE GOTHAM HOROLOGICAL SOCIETY--WITH ITS INVALUABLE COLLECTION OF CLOCKS!
TWO MINUTES LATER--INSIDE THE BUILDING...
...AS SEVERAL OF THE SOCIETY'S MOST PRECIOUS SPECIMENS ARE ABOUT TO "LEAVE" THE COLLECTION--
GOT ANOTHER RIDDLE FOR ME, RIDDLER?
SMASH
ABSOLUTELY, BATMAN!
WHICH ONE OF US IS THE RIDDLER?

SORRY, BATMAN! A ROOM FULL OF CLOCKS -- AND I'M LATE!
BETTER LATE THAN CLEVER!
JUST GET BUSY!
KEEP THE DAMAGE DOWN, ROBIN!
THIS STUFF IS PRICELESS!
I KNOW! -- HE PELL THE WRONG WAY!
THEN LET'S SYNCHRONIZE!
OKAY! --ONE!
TWO!
KRAACK
THREE!


AND I BETCHA HE STILL IS--HE CAN'T HELP BEING FAIR!
HE MUST CONTINUE PROVIDING HONEST RIDDLES--OR HIS CRIMINAL CAREER IS FINITO!

HE LED US HERE--HE MAY EVEN BE HERE! BUT WHETHER HE IS OR ISN'T, ONE THING'S CERTAIN--
--THERE'S ANOTHER RIDDLE WAITING FOR US HERE...SOMEWHERE...



THAT'S IT! THOSE HANDS ARE SET IN POSITIONS THAT DUPLICATE SEMAPHORE SIGNALS!
AND READING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, THEY SPELL OUT Y--A--C--H--T!

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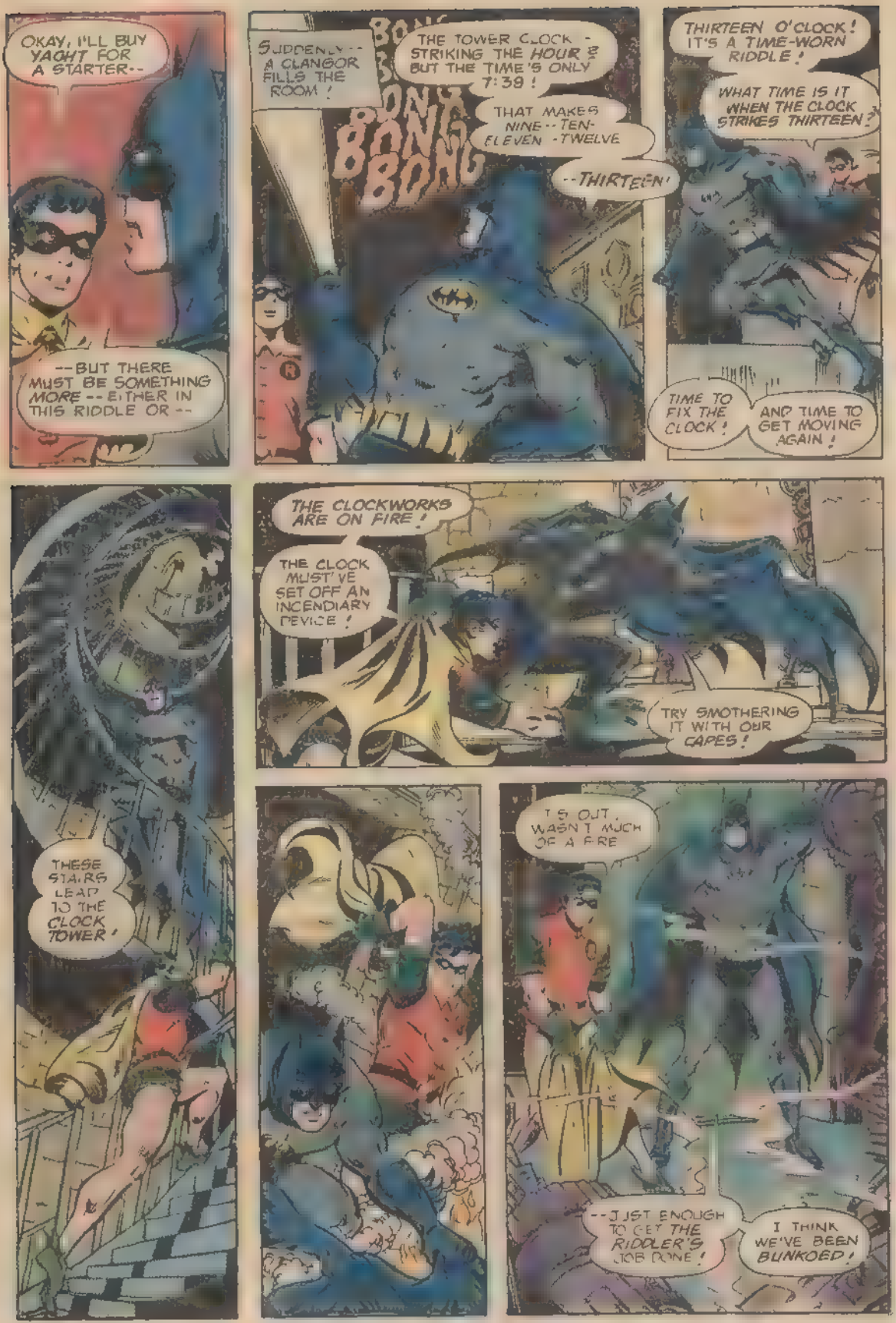
OKAY, I'LL BUY YACHT FOR A STARTER--
--BUT THERE MUST BE SOMETHING MORE -- EITHER IN THIS RIDDLE OR --
SUDDENLY -- A CLANGOR FILLS THE ROOM!
BONG BONG BONG
THE TOWER CLOCK - STRIKING THE HOUR? BUT THE TIME'S ONLY 7:39!
THAT MAKES NINE -- TEN- ELEVEN -TWELVE
--THIRTEEN!
THIRTEEN O'CLOCK! IT'S A TIME-WORN RIDDLE!
WHAT TIME IS IT WHEN THE CLOCK STRIKES THIRTEEN?
TIME TO FIX THE CLOCK!
AND TIME TO GET MOVING AGAIN!
THESE STAIRS LEAD TO THE CLOCK TOWER!
THE CLOCKWORKS ARE ON FIRE!
THE CLOCK MUST'VE SET OFF AN INCENDIARY DEVICE!
TRY SMOTHERING IT WITH OUR CAPES!
IT'S OUT. WASN'T MUCH OF A FIRE
--JUST ENOUGH TO GET THE RIDDLER'S JOB DONE!
I THINK WE'VE BEEN BUNKOED!

DOWNSTAIRS, THE BATMAN'S MISSING PROVES ONLY TOO TRUE!
RIDDLER AND HIS MEN GONE-- ALONG WITH THE SWAG!
HERE'S HIS FAREWELL POSTSCRIPT TO ME--
"TIME TO RETIRE, BATMAN!"
COULD BE AN INSULT...OR MAYBE RIDDLER'S THROUGH FOR THE NIGHT!
PUT A DASH IN "RETIRE" AND YOU GET "RE TIRE"--
--WHICH MEANS BACK TO THE BATMOBILE - BECAUSE HE'S STILL IN ACTION!
WHERE TO THIS TIME? ALL WE'VE GOT IS THE WORD "YACHT"--
HE GAVE US MORE THAN THAT, ROBIN! YOU SAID IT IN THE CLOCK TOWER--
"THE WORKS ARE ON FIRE!
FIREWORKS!
--AND TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT! I GOT MY INVITATION WEEKS AGO--AND TURNED IT DOWN!
WELL, I HAD PLANNED ON GOING, BEFORE THIS CAME UP! NOW WE'LL BOTH BE THERE... IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING!
A GALA EVENING AT THE FAIR HARBOR YACHT CLUB -- THE ANNUAL COMMODORE'S BALL--ONE OF THE SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON...
THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY WILL BE STARTING SOON ON THIS FRONT LAWN!
EVERYBODY'LL COME OUT ON THE VERANDA TO WATCH.
AND THAT'S WHEN THE RIDDLER SHOULD HIT THE LOGICAL TARGET HERE!
LET'S GET IN CLOSER A TREE NEAR THE HOUSE
"I MUST'VE BEEN BANANAS TO WANT TO PASS THIS UP, BATMAN! LOOK AT ALL THOSE GREAT-LOOKING GIRLS!
THIS IS KILLING ME!
"ME, TOO, ROBIN... ME, TOO!

THE FIREWORKS BEGIN IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!
LISTEN SOMEBODY'S IN THIS TROPHY ROOM, ALL RIGHT!
QUIETLY NOW. LET'S NOT DISTURB THE PARTY!
SKELETON KEY WORKS.
NEXT MOMENT...
AND R! SO YOU GOT THIS FAR!
YOU MEAN YOU GOT THIS FAR, RIDDLER!
THIS IS YOUR LAST STOP!
YOU TALK BIG, ROBIN!
WHY NOT? I'M BIGGER SINCE OUR LAST MEETING!
AND FASTER, TOO!
OOOOF!
AND BACK IN DETECTIVE COMICS #377 - JULY 1968!

I SAID QUIETLY, ROBIN!
KRINCH
NICE SHOT, ROBIN! YOU RATE A BONUS RIDDLE--
--BEFORE I DEPART!
BEFORE YOU WHAT?
WHY IS A COIN LIKE A ROOSTER SITTING ON A FENCE?
WOMP
BECAUSE IT'S GOT A HEAD ON ONE SIDE-- AND A TAIL ON THE OTHER--
REMEMBER IT! -IT MAY COME IN HANDY!
THANKS!
YOU'RE WELCOME!
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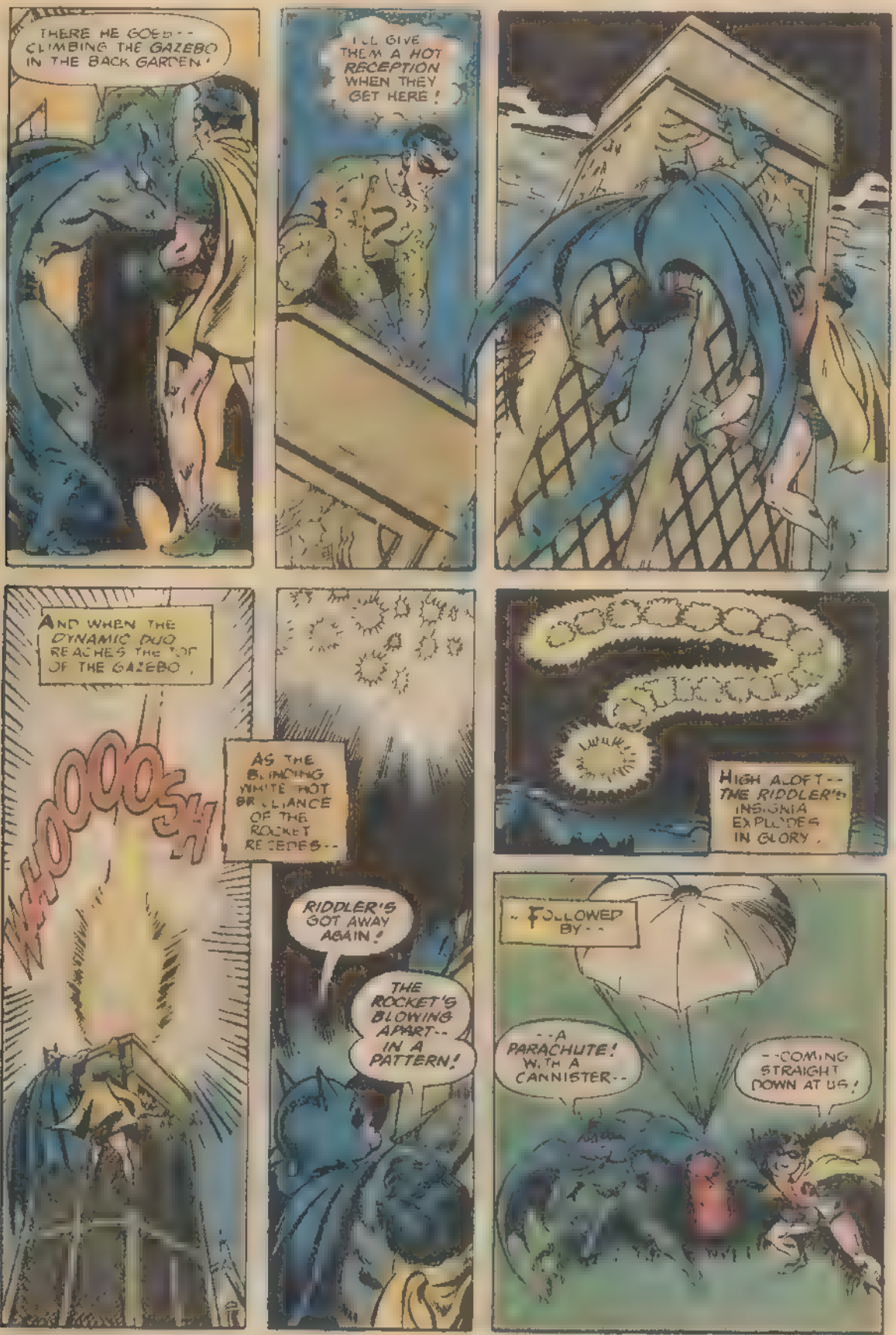
THERE HE GOES -- CLIMBING THE GAZEBO IN THE BACK GARDEN!
I'LL GIVE THEM A HOT RECEPTION WHEN THEY GET HERE!
AND WHEN THE DYNAMIC DUO REACHES THE TOP OF THE GAZEBO,
WHOOOSH
AS THE BLINDING WHITE HOT BRILLIANCE OF THE ROCKET RECEDES--
RIDDLER'S GOT AWAY AGAIN!
THE ROCKET'S BLOWING APART-- IN A PATTERN!
HIGH ALOFT-- THE RIDDLER'S INSIGNIA EXPLODES IN GLORY.
-- FOLLOWED BY--
--A PARACHUTE! WITH A CANNISTER--
--COMING STRAIGHT DOWN AT US!

NOW LET'S SEE WHAT--
IT'S A SNAKE!
A COBRA!
KILL IT!--IT'S POISONOUS!
I GOT IT!
THERE'S ANOTHER RIDDLE IN THE CANNISTER!
ALL FOR NAUGHT BATMAN! AT THE END OF THE TRAIL IS--A RIDDLE WITHOUT AN ANSWER
A RIDDLE WITHOUT AN ANSWER?
THAT'S WHERE WE GO NEXT, ROBIN!
WHERE'S WHERE, BATMAN?
THE GOTHAM MUSEUM OF ART!
THINK HARD, ROBIN-- WHAT IS "A RIDDLE WITHOUT AN ANSWER"?
A RIDDLE BY ITSELF?
EXACTLY! THAT'S THE ANSWER!
RIDDLER'S DOWN THERE IN THE EGYPTIAN PAVILION!
NO QUESTION ABOUT IT... NOW THAT I KNOW THE ANSWER!

WHAT A PLACE! PRACTICALLY EVERYTHING HERE IS WORTH A FORTUNE--
--AND NOT A GUARD IN SIGHT!
OH OH! SPOKE TOO SOON!
HERE COME TWO OF 'EM NOW!
?!
ZONK
ZOP
DON'T YOU GOONS KNOW
...MUSEUM GUARDS...
DON'T PATROL IN PAIRS?
YEAH ESPECIALLY SINCE THE BUDGET CUTS!
CONTINUED ON 42

JUSTICE FOR ALL INCLUDES CHILDREN 6

POLICE
THANKS, SUPERMAN, WE THINK THIS CAR MAY HAVE BEEN STOLEN. COME WITH US BOYS, WE WANT TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS.
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A STOLEN CAR. I WAS HITCHHIKING AND JUST GOT IN
HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH, OFFICER. I SAY, HIM GET A
OK, SUPERMAN, BUT WILL YOU DO ONE MORE FAVOR FOR US? WILL YOU AND OUR YOUNG FRIEND HERE COME TO THE STATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO HELP US COMPLETE THE INVESTIGATION?
SURE.
..THANKS, SUPERMAN, YOU SURE SAVED ME FROM SOME HASSLE!
MAYBE MORE THAN YOU THINK! YOU JUST MISSED BEING ARRESTED FOR CAR THEFT. BUT REMEMBER THIS! WHEN YOU GET INTO A CAR WITH A STRANGER, HE COULD BE A DRUNK, OR A CRIMINAL, OR JUST A BAD DRIVER. YOU WOULD NEVER KNOW THE DIFFERENCE
..UNTIL YOU HAD AN ACCIDENT .. OR WORSE HITCHHIKING IS A RISKY BUSINESS .. AND IT'S AGAINST THE LAW IN A LOT OF PLACES

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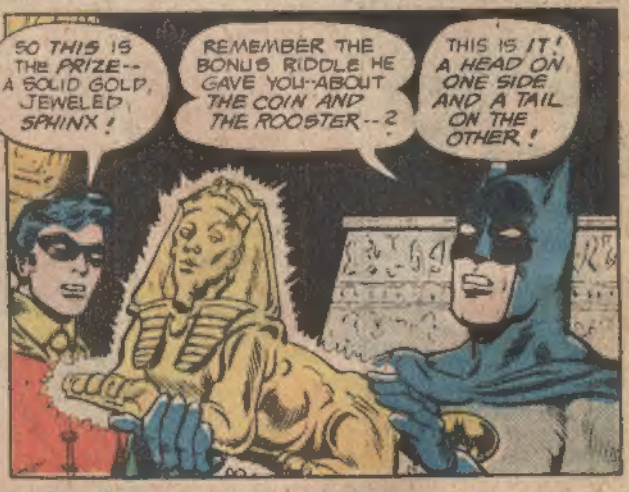
ARTWORK DONATED BY CONTINUITY ASSOCIATES INC

THEY'RE THE SAME TWO "RIDDLERS" FROM BEFORE!
WHICH MEANS THE REAL ONE IS STILL HERE-- OR THEY'D HAVE LAMMED OUT WITH HIM!
ONLY ONE PLACE HE CAN BE--!
DO YOUR STUFF, ROBIN!
KNOCK KNOCK
WHO'S THERE?
HOWARD!
HOWARD WHO?

HOWARD YOU LIKE TO GIVE UP?
BAH!

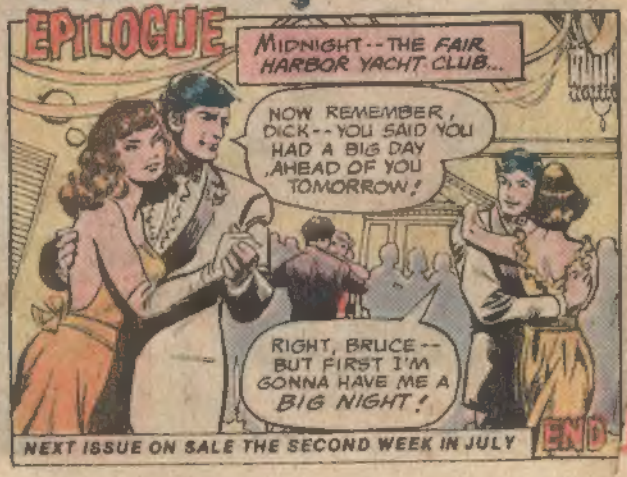
SLAM!
CASE CLOSED!


SO THIS IS THE PRIZE--A SOLID GOLD, JEWELED SPHINX!
REMEMBER THE BONUS RIDDLE HE GAVE YOU--ABOUT THE COIN AND THE ROOSTER--?
THIS IS IT! A HEAD ON ONE SIDE AND A TAIL ON THE OTHER!

AND THIS IS THE RIDDLE WITHOUT AN ANSWER--A RIDDLE BY ITSELF...
...THE SPHINX--ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST RIDDLES!
BUT IT STILL DOESN'T ADD UP! THERE'S SOMETHING MISSING...

THE SNAKE, ROBIN, THE SNAKE!
THAT WAS AN ASP--THE FAMOUS SMALL EGYPTIAN COBRA!

AN ASP, HEY? THEN THE RIDDLER MADE AN--
ROBIN--DON'T YOU DARE MAKE A PUN OUT OF THAT!


EPILOGUE
MIDNIGHT--THE FAIR HARBOR YACHT CLUB...
NOW REMEMBER, DICK--YOU SAID YOU HAD A BIG DAY AHEAD OF YOU TOMORROW!
RIGHT, BRUCE--BUT FIRST I'M GONNA HAVE ME A BIG NIGHT!
NEXT ISSUE ON SALE THE SECOND WEEK IN JULY
END

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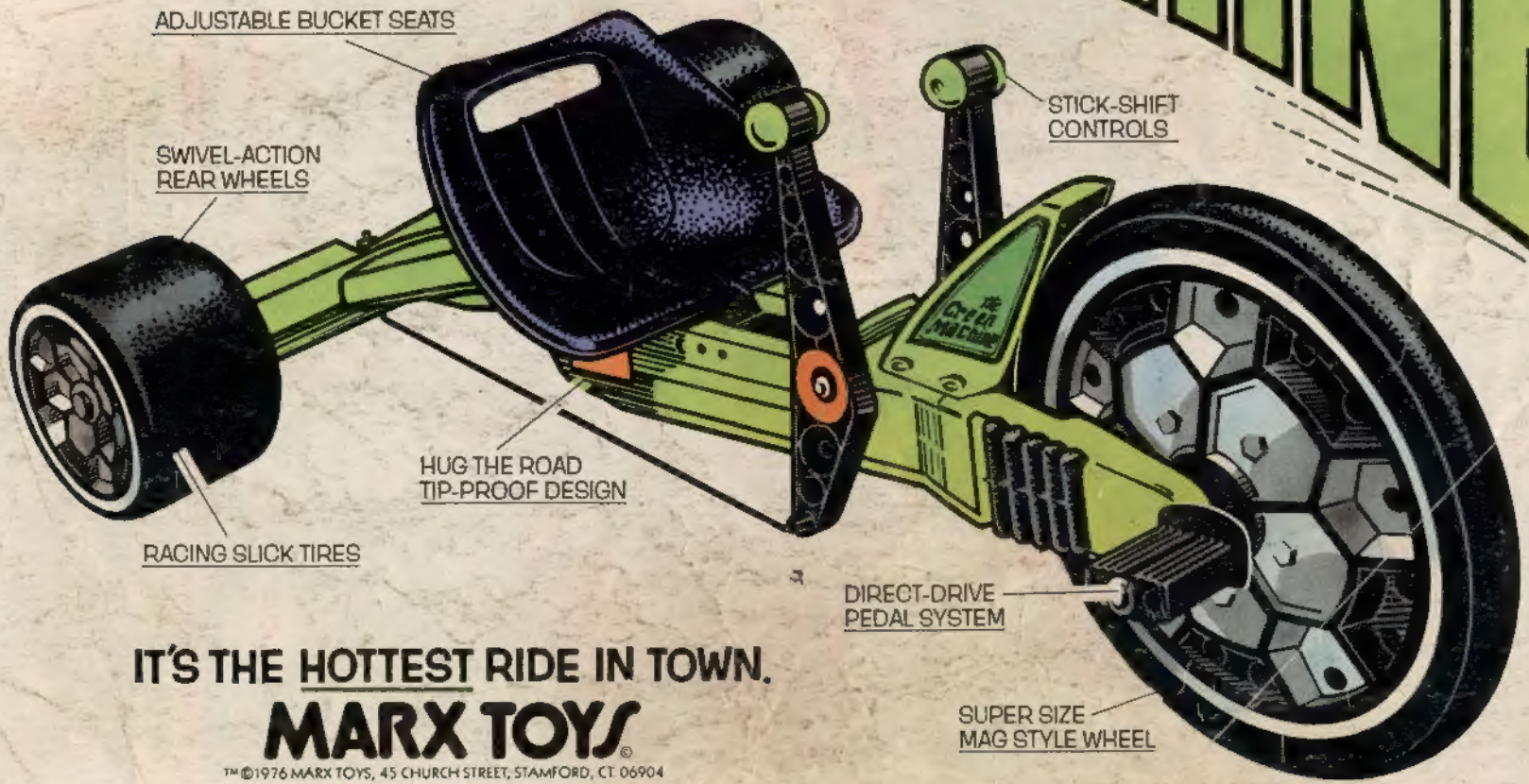

IT'S THE HOTTEST RIDE IN TOWN.

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